

Remarks/Arguments

With reference to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed August 10, 2007, Applicants offer the following remarks and argument.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 9, and 11-21 were presented for examination. Claims 9 and 16 had improper status identifiers, i.e., both claims had identifiers of “original” instead of “currently amended.”

Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment Mailed August 10, 2007

In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed August 10, 2007, Claim 9 was identified as having an improper status identifier. Applicants’ attorney’s subsequent review of the Amendment of April 9, 2007 uncovered that claim 16 also had an improper status identifier.

Discussion

Applicants have corrected the status identifiers of claims 9 and 16.

Conclusion

Based on the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims describe an invention that is properly allowable to the Applicants.

If any issues remain unresolved despite the present amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number shown below to arrange for a telephonic interview before issuing another Office Action.

Applicants would like to take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for a thorough and competent examination and for courtesies extended to Applicants' Attorney.

Respectfully Submitted

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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being electronically deposited with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Date of deposit: August 13, 2007

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